

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

-v-

CARLOS LOPEZ,

Defendant.


11-CR-1032-15 (PAE)

ORDER

PAUL A. ENGELMAYER, District Judge:

The Court has received the attached letter from defendant Carlos Lopez, which the Court treats as a motion for compassionate release. Any letter by Lopez's trial counsel in support of this application is due Friday, July 24, 2020. The Government's letter in response is due Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

SO ORDERED.



PAUL A. ENGELMAYER
United States District Judge

Dated: July 21, 2020
New York, New York

Rec'd 7/21/20
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CARLOS LOPEZ,

Movant.

V.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

Civil No.

Criminal No. 1:s5 11 CR. 01032-015

Judge ENGELMAYER

MOTION FOR COMPASSIONATE RELEASE UNDER 18 U.S.C.
§ 3582(c)(1)(A), FIRST STEP ACT AND EMERGENCY IN LIGHT OF
THE CURRENT PANDEMIC COVID-19 CONDITION

Movant's motion for compassionate release under § 3582 (c)(1)(A). Movant seeks to have his sentence reduced under § 3553(c)(1)(A) under emergency in light of the current pandemic COVID-19 conditions in support of United States v. Urkech, 2019 U.S. Dist Lexis 197408 (D. Neb Nov. 14, 2019 in support of this motion a memorandum of law is attached and incorporated herein reference.

BACKGROUND

Movant was charged with committing crimes as a member of the Trinitarios Street Gang in the Bronx and elsewhere. After a trial that lasted almost three months, he was convicted of numerous crimes, including as relevant here, Racketeering, 18 U.S.C. § 1961, 1962, Racketeering conspiracy, 18 U.S.C. § 1962 four counts of murder-in-aid-of-racketeering, 18 U.S.C. § 1962 four counts of murder-in-aid-of-racketeering, 18 U.S.C. § 1954(a)(1). Each of the counts of murder-in-aid-of-racketeering carried a mandatory sentence of life without parole, and each of the other counts noted carried a potential life sentence.

On July 7, 2015, Movant was sentenced, the sentence was enhanced under 924(c)(1)(A), which forced the court to impose a mandatory minimum of life plus 240 months imprisonment.

Movant filed notice of appeal, his appeal was denied in the second circuit. Movant filed a certiorari petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, that deposition is not yet final.

Movant argues that the imposition of a mandatory life sentence for exclusively accessorial conduct violated the Eighth Amendment, the defendant was 18-21 when the crime happened.

Please note that the Rico Conspiracy and Racketeering is not a crime of violence under United States v. Davis. Count two and count 16, 11, 12 and 14, all of which are conspiracy counts. Under Davis, conspiracy to commit murder is not a crime of violence for purposes of § 924(c)'s subsection 924(J)(1) because it does not necessarily require proof that the defendant used, attempted to use or threatened to use force. Instead, as articulated infra conspiracy to commit an offense is merely an agreement to commit an offense.

INTRODUCTION

Comes now, Movant [hereinafter. Movant or defendant pro se, respectfully moves this honorable court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and the newly-amended 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(A)(1) for an order reducing his sentence or to schedule a resentencing hearing with the opportunity to provide more information to the court prior and during the resentencing hearing, to assist the court in determining the appropriate sentence.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

Movant was a young man of promise whose life was derailed by three factors that ultimately cost him his life. Mr. Lopez made a series of poor choices. Second, the court sentenced him to life in prison-a sentence that effectively announced that there was nothing redeemable about this man, that he has nothing left to give humanity. The latter is most certainly not the case.

To incarcerate Mr. Lopez any longer would be a complete and utter waste of valuable human life. The question before the court really is whether Mr. Lopez' series of poor choices is worth his life, we submit that it is not. Mr. Lopez can never undo the series of poor choices he made. However, we can correct the other two factors that have led to a waste of human life and dignity. Mr. Lopez has served approximately 120 months with good conduct time, which is equivalent to a term of 130 months [approximately 11 years]. Nothing will ever get that time back, he has paid significantly for his crimes.

Now, the court has the opportunity to use the tool Congress gave it to give Mr. Lopez the chance to salvage some portion of his life. Because of The First Step Act of 2018, the court has an opportunity to correct an injustice and release Mr. Lopez because of his efforts over the last decade. Mr. Lopez has the education, skills, family support, and drive to succeed if release.

ARGUMENT

This court can now bring a belated measure of justice to Movant's sentence, due to the change made to § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i) by The First Step Act, see P.L. 115-391, 132 stat. 5194, at § 603 [Dec. 21, 2018], the court may reduce a sentence for extraordinary

and compelling reasons like those present in this case and Movant asks the court to reduce his sentence. The court now has the authority to reduce an inmate's sentence based on the extraordinary and compelling circumstances presented here, the change made to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i) made by both The First Step and that of The Cares Act have finally vested the court with the final authority to decide when extraordinary and compelling reasons warrant a sentence reduction, such circumstances clearly exist in this case. The factors the court must consider in determining an appropriate sentence weigh strongly in favor of Movant's request.

The compassionate release statute was first enacted in 1984. Prior to the new amendments, a District Court could modify a final term of imprisonment in four situations, one of which was the existence of extraordinary and compelling reasons warranting the reduction, as determined by the sentence court. Although courts were given final authority to reduce a sentence, the statute imposed a gatekeeper, that authority could be invoked only upon a motion by the Director of the BOP. This regime change when Congress enacted The First Step Act of 2018, which amended § 3582(c)(1)(A)(i). Now the court can reduce a sentence upon motion of the defendant as the act has relieved the BOP of its duty as gatekeeper.

Congress did not define what constitutes an extraordinary and compelling reason warranting a reduction of sentence under § 3583(3). Thus leaving this crucial element to the discretion of the court. Indeed, legislative history confirms that it intended to grant federal sentencing courts broad discretion to make a determination on a case-by-case basis.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission has not limited extraordinary and compelling reasons for compassionate release to medical age related, or family circumstances. The commentary of U.S.S.G. § 1B1.13 Application Note 1 [A] makes clear that the extraordinary and compelling reasons need not have been unforeseen at the time of sentence in order to permit a reduction in the term of imprisonment. In other words, even if an extraordinary and compelling reason reasonably could have been known or anticipated by the sentence court [that fact] does not prevent consideration for a sentence reduction.

Extraordinary and Compelling Circumstances Warrant
a Reduction in Movant's Sentence

The COVID-19 outbreaks in several Bureau of Prison Facilities has caused U.S. Attorney General William Barr to formally declare an emergency. In response Congress expanded his release authority through The Cares Act. Although Movant is seeking relief through compassionate release, the two acts parellel. The U.S. Attorney General has asked the judicial community to exercise its authority in unison with his to expedite the use of home confinement to combat the spread of infection throughout BOP run facilities. For it's the BOP's mission to administer the lawful punishments that the justice system imposes, and executing that mission imposes upon it a profound obligation to protect the health and safety of all inmates.

Despite extensive precautions to prevent COVID-19 from entering its facilities and infecting inmates, those precautions like any precautions have not been overwhelmingly successful given the speed with which the disease has spread through the general public, it is clear that time is of the essence. In the months since the pandemic social distancing has quelled the effects of

the pandemic in the general public, but until a vaccine is found, the spread of infection can not be quenched.

Avers that an adherence to social distancing in prison is impossible, also the recent laxity in the general public has caused inhibitions to the previous rigid use of P.P.E.S.

Although prison workers are given temperature checks there are no checks in place to prevent asymptomatic workers from entering the facility. This makes the prison a powder keg for an outbreak. There are no test kits, Abbot Rapid test machines or proper quarantine staging areas. Movant's fears are not theoretical, the BOP has limited medical resources, as seen in the face of an outbreak.

The Relevant Factors Weigh Strongly
in Favor of a Sentence Reduction

In deciding Movant's request for a sentence reduction, the Court must determine whether after considering the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3582(a), extraordinary and compelling circumstance permit that relief, and if so, that Movant is not a danger to the safety of any other person or to the community. As explained below, the § 3553(a) factors weigh strongly in favor of relief in Movant's case. Section § 3553(a)(a)(2) requires a court to consider the necessity of the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense, afford adequate deterrence, protect the public from Mr. Lopez and provide him with rehabilitative services. The more than 10 years that Mr. Lopez has already served in prison has transformed him. Although he has had tribulations while incarcerated, he has dedicated himself to the rehabilitation of himself, fulfilling the objectives of § 3553(a)(2) that incarceration provide the defendant with needed

educational or vocational training, medical care or other correctional treatment. Mr. Lopez has an extensive inmate education, see Exhibit-1, Educational Courses. He has completed more than 30 Education Courses, logging over 700 hours since his incarceration. He earned his GED, has become english proficient and developed skills for business. He facilitated alternative to violence project seminars, volunteered as a suicide-prevention companion and tutored the men around him to learn to read and write. He has developed skills in hopes of future employment opportunities if granted relief by this Court. This factor also weighs heavily in support of granting relief.

If released he would pose no danger to the safety of any person or the community. He has maintained strong family and community ties. Movant plans to live with his mother, his wife and their two children if granted relief. Nothing in the facts of this case indicate that Movant would be a danger if released. There are strong indications from his time in prison that he is now a matured man who poses no risk to the community, and is likely to become a productive and valuable member of society upon release.

Mr. Lopez is deserving of mercy with the passage of The First Step Act Congress emphasized the imperative of reducing sentence. Mr. Lopez conduct and initiative during his incarceration demonstrate rehabilitation.

Movant has had an unblemished disciplinary record since 2014.

Conclusion

Congress has now given the Court the power to grant Movant relief from his sentence. Movant respectfully requests reducing his sentence or scheduling a resentencing hearing with the opportunity to provide more information to the Court prior to and during the resentencing hearing to assist the Court in determining the appropriate sentence based on extraordinary and compelling reason.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carlos Lopez 7-14-2020
Carlos Lopez

Exhibit-1

**Individualized Reentry Plan - Program Review (Inmate Copy)**

SEQUENCE: 01728133

Dept. of Justice / Federal Bureau of Prisons

Team Date: 07-02-2020

Plan is for inmate: LOPEZ, CARLOS 66063-054

Facility: CAA CANAAN USP
 Name: LOPEZ, CARLOS
 Register No.: 66063-054
 Age: 32
 Date of Birth: 05-15-1988

Proj. Rel. Date: UNKNOWN
 Proj. Rel. Mthd: LIFE
 DNA Status: BRO05949 / 12-16-2011

Detainers

Detaining Agency	Remarks
DEPORTATION ORDER. FILE #047 798 160.	null

Current Work Assignments

Fac	Assignment	Description	Start
CAA	USP LT ORD	USP LT ORDERLY	11-26-2019

Current Education Information

Fac	Assignment	Description	Start
CAA	ESL HAS	ENGLISH PROFICIENT	08-12-2015
CAA	GED EARNED	GED EARNED IN BOP	10-03-2012

Education Courses

SubFac	Action	Description	Start	Stop
CAA	C	MATH COLLEGE PREP CLASS.	07-11-2019	08-29-2019
CAA	C	INTRO TO HOME IMPROVEMENT.	07-10-2019	08-29-2019
CAA	C	INTRO TO WORKING WITH CONCRETE	07-09-2019	08-28-2019
CAA	C	DEVELOP SKILLS FOR A BUSINESS.	07-08-2019	08-27-2019
CAA	C	PARENTING 2	06-24-2019	07-05-2019
CAA	C	4000HR USDOL TEACHER AIDE APPT	03-29-2017	05-01-2019
CAA	C	INTRO TO HOME IMPROVEMENT.	08-06-2018	09-26-2018
CAA	C	MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE	04-11-2018	04-12-2018
CAA	C	ANGER MANAGEMENT COURSE	02-09-2018	04-06-2018
CAA	C	INTRO TO WORLD OF BUSINESS.	11-13-2017	12-19-2017
CAA	C	PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS	11-13-2017	12-19-2017
CAA	C	USP ACE THINKING SKILLS	11-13-2017	12-19-2017
CAA	C	RPP3 MANAGING YOUR MONEY	10-03-2017	11-16-2017
CAA	C	RPP1 RELEASE PREP ON HEALTH	10-01-2017	11-15-2017
CAA	C	CDL PREPARATION CLASS.	10-02-2017	11-08-2017
CAA	C	INTRO EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION	10-02-2017	11-08-2017
CAA	C	RPP3 MANAGING YOUR MONEY	08-09-2017	09-21-2017
CAA	C	JOB FAIR INTERVIEW	09-14-2017	09-14-2017
CAA	C	ULTIMATE NATURE	07-01-2017	08-28-2017
CAA	C	BASIC WRITING STYLES/IDEAS.	07-01-2017	08-28-2017
CAA	C	RPP3 MANAGING YOUR MONEY	06-14-2017	08-08-2017
CAA	C	PARENTING CLASS	05-16-2017	06-27-2017
CAA	C	RPP2 INTERVIEW/RESUME CLASS	04-12-2017	06-08-2017
CAA	C	LAWS FOR SMALL BUSINESS.	03-20-2017	06-02-2017
CAA	C	COURSE ON SOLAR SYSTEM.	03-20-2017	06-02-2017
CAA	C	CDL PREPARATION CLASS.	10-15-2016	11-16-2016
CAA	C	INTRO TO HOME IMPROVEMENT.	10-15-2016	11-15-2016
CAA	C	TUTOR TRAINING	03-01-2016	03-01-2016

Discipline History (Last 6 months)

Hearing Date	Prohibited Acts
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** NO INCIDENT REPORTS FOUND IN LAST 6 MONTHS **

Current Care Assignments

Assignment	Description	Start
CARE1	HEALTHY OR SIMPLE CHRONIC CARE	08-26-2015
CARE1-MH	CARE1-MENTAL HEALTH	08-19-2015



Individualized Reentry Plan - Program Review (Inmate Copy)

SEQUENCE: 01728133

Dept. of Justice / Federal Bureau of Prisons

Team Date: 07-02-2020

Plan is for inmate: LOPEZ, CARLOS 66063-054

Current Medical Duty Status Assignments

Assignment	Description	Start
REG DUTY	NO MEDICAL RESTR--REGULAR DUTY	12-15-2011
YES F/S	CLEARED FOR FOOD SERVICE	06-20-2018

Current Drug Assignments

Assignment	Description	Start
DAP UNQUAL	RESIDENT DRUG TRMT UNQUALIFIED	09-26-2016
ED COMP	DRUG EDUCATION COMPLETE	03-01-2016
NR DIS	NRES DRUG TMT/DISCONTINUED	06-14-2016

FRP Details

Most Recent Payment Plan

FRP Assignment: PART FINANC RESP-PARTICIPATES Start: 03-28-2017

Inmate Decision: AGREED \$25.00 Frequency: MONTHLY

Payments past 6 months: \$150.00 Obligation Balance: \$325.00

Financial Obligations

No.	Type	Amount	Balance	Payable	Status
1	ASSMT	\$1,400.00	\$325.00	IMMEDIATE	AGREED
Adjustments:					
	Date Added	Facil	Adjust Type	Reason	Amount
	06-04-2020	CAA	PAYMENT	INSIDE PMT	\$25.00
	05-06-2020	CAA	PAYMENT	INSIDE PMT	\$25.00
	04-11-2020	CAA	PAYMENT	INSIDE PMT	\$25.00
	03-05-2020	CAA	PAYMENT	INSIDE PMT	\$25.00
	02-11-2020	CAA	PAYMENT	INSIDE PMT	\$25.00
	01-14-2020	CAA	PAYMENT	INSIDE PMT	\$25.00

Payment Details

Trust Fund Deposits - Past 6 months: \$2,797.21

Payments commensurate ? Y

New Payment Plan:

** No data **

Progress since last review

Prior goals in progress. Receives good work evaluations as Lieutenant Orderly.

Next Program Review Goals

Complete Anger management and OSHA by 12-2020.

Long Term Goals

Complete Challenge and NRES DRG class by 07-2021.

RRC/HC Placement

Comments

FSA:INELIGIBLE/MEDIUM.
 Maintain clear conduct.
 Complete all RPP classes.
 Complete OSHA.
 Maintain good family and community relations through use of e-mail, telephone and social visits.
 Save a minimum of \$5 per month towards pre-release savings account.
 Complete Challenge Program.
 Make timely FRP payments.
 Complete VT Culinary Arts.
 Complete 4-6 ACE Classes every 6 months.
 Reviewed 407/408 contact information.
 Resolve any possible warrant or detainers, these will slow down your halfway house process. Inmates with pending charges or detainers will not receive a halfway house placement until these issues are resolved.



Individualized Reentry Plan - Program Review (Inmate Copy)

SEQUENCE: 01728133

Dept. of Justice / Federal Bureau of Prisons

Team Date: 07-02-2020

Plan is for inmate: LOPEZ, CARLOS 66063-054

Name: LOPEZ, CARLOS
Register No.: 66063-054
Age: 32
Date of Birth: 05-15-1988

DNA Status: BRO05949 / 12-16-2011

Inmate (LOPEZ, CARLOS. Register No.: 66063-054)

Date

Unit Manager / Chairperson

Case Manager

Date

Date

Carlos Lopez #66063-054
United State Penitentiary Canaan
P.O. Box 300
Waymart, P.A. 18472



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Hon. Judge Engelmayer
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10007-1312

USMP3
SDNY

Rec'd 7/21/20
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THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS
FROM AN INMATE CURRENTLY
IN THE CUSTODY OF THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

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